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CLASSIFICATION S-E-C-R-E-T

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 8 July 1955

SUBJECT Unrest in Greifswald

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW) 25X1

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION 25X1

25X1

1. The School of [redacted] at Greifswald University is scheduled to be closed and a military academy for medicine for the training of military physicians is to open at the beginning of the 4th semester. The students were [redacted] to continue their studies and then join the KVP or to leave the university. Since all other universities in East Germany are crowded and no living space is available, those students who left Greifswald would hardly be in a position to resume their medical training at another university. The [redacted] students who started undergoing their examinations [redacted] their 10th semester. 25X1

2. On 30 March 1955, professors of the surgical hospital conferred with Dr. Gerhard Harig, State Secretary for University Affairs, who was in Greifswald from 30 March until at least 2 April. While this conference was held, all students working at the hospital gathered in front of the hospital building to protest against the closing down of the medical school. They had previously planned to strike but did not follow through with this decision.

3. A meeting of the school of medicine was to be held in the university building on the evening of 30 March. The students had been told that their professors would discuss the situation. While the professors failed to appear, other physicians and a large number of unknown persons including many uniformed railroad employees were present. When an FDJ representative opened the meeting and stated that the professors would not appear and that Comrade Mewes, first secretary of the Rostock SED headquarters, would make a speech, the students expressed indignation and some stated that this would give this meeting a different character. When the FDJ representative said that all those who did not want to hear Mewis could leave the room, almost all students tried to get out [redacted] (sic), at the very moment Mewis and Westphal, head of the country administration, entered the building. The doors of the meeting room and all doors of the building were closed and guarded by SSD personnel in civilian clothes and trucks with uniformed police from Greifswald and Stralsund immediately drew up to take about 250 of the students in the building to the jail on Lange Stresow. 25X1

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4. When the trucks arrived at the jail, the students were taken in groups of 20 to cells designed for military confinement [redacted] and were interrogated during the night. Except for about 50 students, who were still under arrest until 2 April, the others were released on the following day. Those released did not want to speak but implied that they had been treated badly and that several students had been manhandled.

5. In the afternoon of 31 March, the steeple of the Jacoby Church on Dom-Strasse, across from the jail building, was in flames. A short time before the fire, three young workers had visited the sacristan if they could inspect the interior construction of the steeple. Since the police was later unable to identify these workers, the population believed that they had been SED provocateurs who tried to incriminate the students with the population.

6. Police, SED, and [redacted] stationed at enterprises had been [redacted] tive stores and HO shops had been occupied night and day.

7. The SED district headquarters suppressed all information on the incidents and the church fire and made it impossible f[redacted] carry reports on these incidents. Only the "[redacted] newspaper, carried a report, probably as a r[redacted] ban imposed on the CDU papers was the first [redacted] by the SED.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The School of Medicine at Greifswald University is scheduled to be closed and a military academy for medicine for the training of military physicians is to open at the beginning of the new semester. The students were told by the rector to continue their studies at the [illegible] the KVP or to leave the university. Since all of the universities in East Germany are crowded and no living space is available, those students who [illegible] would hardly be in a position to resume their medical training at another university. The only exceptions are those students who started undergoing their examinations and are finishing their 10th semester.

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2. On 30 March 1955, professors of the surgical hospital conferred with Dr. Gerhard Harig, State Secretary for University Affairs, who was in Greifswald from 30 March until at least 2 April. While this conference was held, all students working at the hospital gathered in front of the hospital building to protest against the closing down of the medical school. They had previously planned to strike but did not follow through with this decision.

3. A meeting of the school of medicine was to be held in the university building on the evening of 30 March. The students had been told that their professors would discuss the situation. While the professors failed to appear, other physicians and a large number of unknown persons including many uniformed railroad employees were present. When an FDJ representative opened the meeting and stated that the professors would not appear and that Comrade Mewis, first secretary of the Rostock SED headquarters, would make a speech, the students expressed indignation and some stated that this would give this meeting a different character. When the FDJ representative said that all those who did not want to hear Mewis could leave the room, almost all students tried to get out at the very moment Mewis and Westphal, head of the country administration(sic), entered the building. The doors of the meeting room and all doors of the building were closed and guarded by SSD personnel in civilian clothes and trucks with uniformed police from Greifswald and Stralsund immediately drew up to take about 250 of the students in the building to the jail on Dom-Strasse.

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5. In the afternoon of 31 March, the steeple of the Jacoby Church on Dom-Strasse, across from the jail building, was in flames. A short time before the fire, three young workers had asked the sacristan if they could inspect the interior construction of the steeple. Since the police was later unable to identify these three workers, the population believed that they had been SED provocateurs who tried to incriminate the students with the population.

6. Police, SED, and combat groups stationed at enterprises had been alerted up to 2 April. Cooperative stores and HO shops had been occupied night and day.

7. The SED district headquarters suppressed all information on the incidents and the church fire and made it impossible for the CDU/Ost newspapers to carry reports on these incidents. Only the "Ostsee-Zeitung", an SED newspaper, carried a report, probably as a result of negligence. The ban imposed on the CDU papers was the first ever to be directly imposed by the SED.

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[redacted]

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